

TITLE V - PROMOTING EQUITY, EXCELLENCE, AND PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE

Among other things, proposed new Title V of the Educational Excellence for All Children Act of 1999 would: (1) improve the Magnet Schools Assistance program by adding emphasis on projects that consider the diversity of the student populations and that have the capacity to continue after the Federal grant has run out; (2) reauthorize the Women's Educational Equity program, currently in Part B of Title V of the ESEA, but move it to Part D of Title V of the ESEA; (3) repeal the Assistance to Address School Dropout Problems program, currently in Part C of Title V of the ESEA; (4) move Charter Schools, from Part C of Title X of the ESEA, to Part B of Title V of the ESEA; and (5) add a new initiative, "Options: Opportunities to Improve Our Nation's Schools", to be new Part C of that Title that would provide a flexible authority to support SEAs and LEAs in experimenting with different kinds of public elementary and secondary schools, such as worksite and college-based schools.

Section 501. Renaming the Title. Section 501 of the bill would change the name of Title V of the ESEA to "Promoting Equity, Excellence, and Public School Choice".

MAGNET SCHOOL ASSISTANCE

Section 502. Findings. Section 502 of the bill would amend Part A (Magnet School Assistance) of Title V of the ESEA. Section 502(a) of the bill would make editorial changes to, and update, section 5101 of the ESEA, the findings for the Magnet School Assistance Program.

Section 502(b) of the bill would amend section 5102(3) of the ESEA (Statement of Purpose) to clarify that the purpose of providing financial assistance to develop and design innovative educational methods and practices is to promote diversity and increase choices in public elementary and secondary schools and educational programs.

Section 502(c) of the bill would amend section 5106(b)(1)(D) of the ESEA (Information and Assurances), a part of the application requirements, to eliminate reference to the Goals 2000: Educate America Act and to make an editorial change.

Section 502(d) of the bill would amend section 5107 of the ESEA (Priority) to eliminate the current priorities for greatest need and new, or significantly revised, projects. These priorities are not well defined and have not helped to determine which grant applications are most deserving. Section 502(d) would also add a new priority for projects that propose activities, which may include professional development, that will build local capacity to operate the magnet program once Federal assistance has ended.

Section 502(e) of the bill would amend section 5108(a) of the ESEA (Uses of Funds) to: (1) revise paragraph (3) to allow for the payment, or subsidization of the compensation, of elementary and secondary school teachers who are certified or licensed by the State, and instructional staff who have expertise and professional skills necessary for the conduct of programs in magnet schools or who demonstrate knowledge, experience, or skills in the relevant field of expertise; and (2) allow grantees to use funds for activities, including professional development, that will build the applicant's capacity to operate the magnet program once Federal assistance has ended.

Section 502(f) of the bill would repeal section 5111 of the ESEA (Innovative Programs). Activities are subsumed under the new Public School Choice program.

Section 502(g) of the bill would redesignate current section 5112 of the ESEA (Evaluation, Technical Assistance, and Dissemination) as section 5111, and incorporate its requirements into proposed new section ("Evaluation, Technical Assistance, and Dissemination") that would authorize the Secretary to reserve not more than five percent (rather than two percent) of appropriated funds in any fiscal year to evaluate magnet schools programs, as well as provide technical assistance to applicants and grantees and collect and disseminate information on successful magnet school programs. Section 502(g) of the bill would also require each evaluation, in addition to current items, to address the extent to which magnet school programs continue once grant assistance under this part ends.

Section 502(h) of the bill would amend section 5113(a) of the ESEA (Authorization) to authorize such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2001 and for each of the four

succeeding fiscal years to be appropriated to carry out the part. Section 501(h) of the bill would also redesignate section 5113 as section 5112.

WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Section 503. Amendments to the Women's Educational Equity Program. Section 503(a)(1)(A) of the bill would amend section 5201(a) of the ESEA (Short Title) to update and change the short title from the "Women's Educational Equity Act of 1994" to the "Women's Educational Equity Act."

Section 503(a)(1)(B) of the bill would amend section 5201(b) of the ESEA (Findings) to make it clear, in paragraph (3)(B), that classroom textbooks and other educational materials continue not to reflect sufficiently the experiences, achievements, or concerns of women and girls. Little progress has been made in this area since 1994. Section 5201(b) of the ESEA would also be amended by slightly editing paragraph (3)(C) and adding a recent finding to that paragraph that girls are dramatically underrepresented in higher-level computer science courses.

Section 503(a)(2)(A) of the bill would amend section 5204 of the ESEA (Applications) to change several internal section references to conform section numbers to the part redesignation and to clarify that the application requirements in which these references appear apply only to implementation grants. Section 503(a)(2)(B) of the bill would amend section 5204(b)(2) of the ESEA to change a reference to "the National Education Goals" to "America's Education Goals." Section 503(a)(2)(C) of the bill would eliminate section 5204(4) of the ESEA, which requires an application description of how program funds would be used in a consistent manner with the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994. The School-to-Work Opportunities Act sunsets in 2001, and this reference will be obsolete. Paragraphs (5) through (7) in the section would be redesignated.

Section 503(a)(3) of the bill would conform a section reference to a later redesignation.

Section 503(a)(4) of the bill would repeal section 5206 of the ESEA (Report). The report required by this section will be submitted soon, satisfying the requirement and making it obsolete.

Section 503(a)(5) of the bill would amend section 5207 of the ESEA (Administration) by eliminating subsection(a),

requiring the Secretary to conduct an evaluation of materials and programs developed under the program and to submit a report to Congress by January 1, 1998. Congress

did not provide funding for the mandated evaluation, and the report was not done.

Section 503(a)(6) of the bill would amend section 520 of the ESEA to authorize appropriations of such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2001 and for each of the four succeeding fiscal years to carry out this part. Because the appropriation for the Women's Educational Equity program has been small in recent years, using two thirds of this appropriation for local implementation grants (rather than national research and development grants) has not been the most effective use of program resources. 8

Section 503(b) of the bill would redesignate Part B of Title V of the ESEA as Part D of the Title and redesignate sections 5201, 5202, 5203, 5204, 5205, 5207, and 5208 of the ESEA as sections 5401, 5402, 5403, 5404, 5405, 5406, and 5407, respectively.

ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS SCHOOL DROPOUT PROBLEMS

Section 504. Repeal of the Assistance to Address School Dropout Problems Program. Section 504 of the bill would repeal the "Assistance to Address School Dropout Problems" program in Part C of Title V of the ESEA.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Section 505. Redesignation of the Public Charter Schools Program. Section 505 of the bill would redesignate the Public Charter Schools Program, which is currently Part C of Title X of the ESEA, as Part B of Title V of the ESEA. Section 505 would also make necessary conforming changes to carry out the redesignation.

OPTIONS: OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS

Section 506. Options: Opportunities to Improve our Nation's Schools. Section 506 of the bill would amend Title V of the ESEA to add a proposed new Part C ("Options: Opportunities to Improve our Nation's Schools") that would authorize a flexible, competitive grant program to help SEAs and LEAs provide innovative, high-quality public school choice programs.

Proposed new section 5301 of the ESEA would set forth

the findings of the proposed new part and state that its purpose is to identify and support innovative approaches to high-quality public school choice by providing financial assistance for the demonstration, development, implementation, and evaluation of, and dissemination of information about, public school choice projects that stimulate educational innovation for all public schools and contribute to standards-based school reform efforts.

Proposed new section 5302(a) of the ESEA would authorize the Secretary, from funds appropriated under section 5305(a) and not reserved under section 5305(b), to make grants to SEAs and LEAs to support programs that promote innovative approaches to high-quality public school choice. Proposed new section 5302(b) of the ESEA would prohibit grants under this part from exceeding three years.

Proposed new section 5303(a) of the ESEA would authorize funds under the part to be used to demonstrate, develop, implement, evaluate, and disseminate information on innovative approaches to broaden public school choice. Examples of such approaches at the school, district, and State levels would be: (1) inter-district approaches to public school choice, including approaches that increase equal access to high-quality educational programs and diversity in schools; (2) public elementary and secondary programs that involve partnerships with institutions of higher education and that are located on the campuses of those institutions; (3) programs that allow students in public secondary schools to enroll in postsecondary courses and to receive both secondary and postsecondary academic credit; (4) worksite satellite schools, in which SEAs or LEAs form partnerships with public or private employers, to create public schools at parents' places of employment; and (5) approaches to school desegregation that provide students and parents choice through strategies other than magnet schools.

Proposed new section 5303(b) of the ESEA would require that funds under this part: (1) supplement, and not supplant, non-federal funds expended for existing programs; (2) not be used for transportation; and (3) not be used to fund projects that are specifically authorized under Part A or B of the title.

Proposed new section 5304(a) of the ESEA would require

a SEA or LEA desiring to receive a grant under this part to submit an application to the Secretary, in such form and containing such information, as the Secretary may require. Each application would be required to include a description of the program for which funds are sought and the goals for such program, a description of how the program funded under this part will be coordinated with, and will complement and enhance, programs under other related Federal and non-federal projects, and, if the program includes partners, the name of each partner and a description of its responsibilities. Also, each application would be required to include a description of the policies and procedures the applicant will use to ensure its accountability for results, including its goals and performance indicators, and that the program is open and accessible to, and will promote high-academic standards for, all students. This will help ensure broad access to high-quality schools, while allowing, for example, public-private partnerships to create public worksite schools that allow children of employees at the worksite to attend such a school. The Secretary would be required to give a priority to applications for projects that would serve high-poverty LEAs, and would be authorized to give a priority to applications demonstrating that the applicant will carry out its project in partnership with one or more public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions, including institutions of higher education and public and private employers.

Proposed new section 5305(a) of the ESEA would authorize such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2001 and for each of the four succeeding fiscal years to carry out the part. Proposed new section 5305(b) of the ESEA would, from amounts appropriated for any fiscal year, authorize the Secretary to reserve not more than five percent to carry out evaluations, provide technical assistance, and disseminate information. Proposed new section 5305(c) of the ESEA would authorize the Secretary to use funds reserved under subsection (b) to carry out one or more evaluations of programs assisted under this part. Those evaluations would, at a minimum, address: (1) how and the extent to which the programs supported with funds under the part promote educational equity and excellence; and (2) the extent to which public schools of choice supported with funds under the part are held accountable to the public, effective in improving public education, and open and accessible to all students.